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PATENT APPLICATION
Q62668

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Takahiro ITO, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/886,119

Group Art Unit: 3617

Confirmation No.: 4996

Examiner: TBA

Filed: June 22, 2001

For: PNEUMATIC TIRES

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

The undersigned attorney hereby states that, based upon information and belief:

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned attorney after making a reasonable inquiry, the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven M. Gruskin
Registration No. 36,818

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: January 29, 2003

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 AND 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) that the Examiner may deem material to the patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) no later than three (3) months from the application's filing date for an application other than a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d); (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 and, therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required. However,

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Serial No. 09/886,119

ATTORNEY DOCKET
NO. Q62668

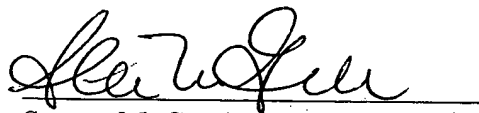
inasmuch as a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) can be made, the same is being filed concurrently herewith.

In addition, the present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty (30) days or less from the date of a Communication from a foreign patent office and, accordingly, a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d) is also being submitted concurrently herewith.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants also enclose herewith a copy of a European Search Report dated January 15, 2003, issued by the EPO in a counterpart application (EP 01 30 5380 - Abstract appended hereto) citing such documents, together with that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the EPO.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Gruskin
Registration No. 36,818

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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Date: January 29, 2003